EU Competition

Explore Related

Practices

Antitrust/Competition
Antitrust Mergers, Acquisitions, & Joint Ventures
Cartels & Conspiracies

Steptoe’s competition practice helps clients manage risks and challenges associated with doing business in Europe, including distribution and e-commerce, merger and joint ventures, exclusionary practices, and EU antitrust compliance. Clients call upon our in-depth antitrust experience at the intersection with copyright and patent laws as well as on emerging issues associated with big data and artificial intelligence.

We defend corporations in investigations before the Commission (DG COMP) as well as national competition authorities (NCAs), in appeals before the EU Court of Justice, and in follow-on litigation in civil courts.

Our EU Competition Experience at a Glance

In a nutshell, members of our EU competition team have handled:

- 16 dawn raids
- 25 cartels and investigations
- 6 sector inquiries
- 10 cartel and dawn raids litigation cases
- 6 abuse of dominance investigations and complaints
- 100 compliance initiatives
- 150 merger control cases
- 2 major follow-on civil litigations in English courts

We help clients with:

- Dawn raids, fine settlement proceedings, follow-on civil litigation
- Merger filing analysis, phase I and II merger review, remedies negotiations
- Self-assessments and advice on pricing, distribution, and IP licensing
- Compliance for trade associations and standard-setting organizations
- Coordination of investigations by NCAs

Noteworthy


Representative Matters
Cartel Investigations, Restrictive Practices, and Dawn Raids

- Advising a leading online video-streaming company in the e-commerce sector inquiry, the Portability Regulation and the revision of the Audio-Visual Media Services Directive as well as other competition-related matters (including net neutrality, interconnection, and telecom mergers)
- Conducting an internal audit for a multinational industrial manufacturer of business practices challenged by whistleblower and devising enhanced compliance training
- Representing a global industrial group regarding the investigation by the UK Competition and Markets Authority into its subsidiary’s minimum online advertised price policy and settling with the maximum possible penalty discounts for cooperation, compliance and early settlement
- Representing a leading Asian chemical company in an ongoing European Commission investigation into electronics components for mobile and portable devices and a parallel litigation before the English courts
- Advising a major health care insurer in relation to an investigation by the UK Competition and Markets Authority into the private health care market
- Representing Japan Airlines in a series of English court litigations in connection with the Airfreight case

Unilateral Conduct by Dominant Companies

- Advising a leading supplier of consumer products on bundling, tying and rebate schemes
- Representing a major consumer electronics group in its antitrust defense against a standard essential patent action introduced by a competitor in France
- Securing a favorable outcome for the REEL Group, a French engineering group, in the European Commission’s antitrust investigation into Rio Tinto Alcan’s tying practice in the aluminum sector
- Advising and representing a testing software vendor in an antitrust investigation involving refusal to supply interoperability information
- Advising a leading technology company relating to an alleged abuse of a dominant position by its main rival and also advising on a proposed bundling, tying and rebate scheme.

Mergers, Acquisitions, and Joint Ventures

- Representing US defense group in the demerger of its joint venture with a French defense group
- Advising a European food group in a major French acquisition
- Advising an international communications network in a strategic acquisition
- Advising a leading internet video streaming provider on a number of telecom mergers in Europe
- Advising Rockwell Collins Inc. on the EU and third country merger control aspects of its acquisition of ARINC Inc.

Antitrust Compliance

- Assisting an international services group in their bid-rigging / consortia bidding compliance
- Advising on the EU competition law aspects of the licensing of globally-recognized brands
- Advising an international financial services company on its market data gathering practices and possible information exchange issues
- Advising a global insurance group on the creation of an international health insurance consortium with a German-based insurance company
- Acting as outside counsel to the board of directors of a biotech trade association on a broad range of compliance issues
- Advising a leading supplier of high-end sport goods in relation to online commerce (RPMs, MFNs, hub & spokes)

News & Publications

PRESS RELEASES

Competition Lawyer Charles Whiddington Joins Steptoe in Brussels
July 16, 2019

PRESS RELEASES

Steptoe Receives Five Practice, 13 Individual Mentions in Legal 500 EMEA
April 10, 2019
ACCOLADES
Steptoe Receives Five Practice, 13 Individual Mentions in *Legal 500 EMEA*
April 12, 2018

PRESS RELEASES
Steptoe Bolsters Brussels Competition Team with Paul Hughes Move
April 6, 2018

ACCOLADES
*Chambers Europe 2018* Recognizes Steptoe Practices and Lawyers
March 8, 2018

MEDIA MENTIONS
*Le Temps* Quotes Simon Hirsbrunner on State Aid, Possible Loss in Cantonal Sovereignty
February 27, 2018

MEDIA MENTIONS
*Aargauer Zeitung* Cites Simon Hirsbrunner on Swiss-EU Bilateral Contracts
February 1, 2018

MEDIA MENTIONS
*Tagesanzeiger* Cites Simon Hirsbrunner on Swiss-EU Negotiations and State Aid
January 30, 2018
By: Simon Hirsbrunner

MEDIA MENTIONS
Swiss Television Network SRF Interviews Simon Hirsbrunner on Swiss-EU Agreements
January 28, 2018

CLIENT ALERTS
Online Distribution Practices Under EU Fire: Are You Ready?
June 19, 2017

Events
WEBINARS
How Far Can Brands Control the Online Resale of Their Products? EU Competition Enforcement Outlook
January 31, 2019

WEBINARS
No Poach Agreements - A New Enforcement Focus on HR Activities?
January 10, 2019
Speakers: Paul Hughes, John J. Kavanagh

WEBINARS
Bypassing Distributors by Selling Direct to Customers
Opportunities and Antitrust Risks in the EU
May 31, 2018
Speaker: Paul Hughes
SEMINARS & EVENTS

The Day After Coty
Implications for Online Distribution of Brands in Europe
December 7, 2017
Steptoe
Avenue Louise 489
B-1050 Brussels

WEBINARS

Most Favored Nation Clauses: Is it the End of the Road?
EU Competition Webinar Series (Part IV)
October 25, 2017

WEBINARS

Staying Clear of Online Pricing Pitfalls
EU Competition Webinar Series (Part III)
September 20, 2017
Speaker: Paul Hughes

WEBINARS

Keeping Distributors in Check in the Online Space
EU Competition Webinar Series (Part II)
June 29, 2017

WEBINARS

Achieving A Successful Product Launch
EU Competition Webinar Series (Part I)
May 23, 2017
Speaker: Paul Hughes

WEBINARS

Latest Trends in US and EU Antitrust Enforcement
Focus on Criminal Antitrust Enforcement
April 28, 2016
Speakers: Kenneth P. Ewing, Patrick F. Linehan

SEMINARS & EVENTS

Antitrust for Insurers and Reinsurers
Staying Clear of Competition Law Pitfalls
February 24, 2016
Speakers: Paul Hughes, Angus Rodger
Steptoe
5 Aldemanbury Square
London EC2V 7HR

Antitrust News & Briefs

UK Competition Law Enforcement Post-Brexit: Choppy Waters Ahead
January 31, 2019
By: Paul Hughes

New Year Resolution for EU Antitrust Compliance Teams: “Putting HR Practices on My Radar Screen”
January 8, 2019